

Protecting Our Kids from Harmful Research Act

Beginning in 2015, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded taxpayer-funded grant money to four pediatric clinics to conduct research in a study titled “The Impact of Early Medical Treatment in Transgender Youth.”¹ The money was awarded through NIH’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) and reports show that the study included children as young as eight years old. Congress did not direct the NICHD to conduct the study, and it appears that one of the clinics may have fraudulently used funds awarded through the grant to perform double-mastectomies on the healthy breasts of girls as young as 13. This study was renewed in 2021 for up to four more years to evaluate and monitor the effects of puberty blockers and opposite-sex hormones on participants.²

As Ryan T. Anderson and Robert P. George have demonstrated, physical interventions on the bodies of children done to “affirm” their “gender identity” are experimental, irreversible, and lacking in diagnostic rigor. Existing research shows that so-called “sex reassignment” procedures rarely produce the intended clinical outcomes of improving mental health and alleviating gender dysphoria, and may even exacerbate these problems in patients.³ A growing number of well respected medical groups in the United States and abroad, including the American College of Pediatricians, the Royal College of General Practitioners in the United Kingdom, and the Swedish National Council for Medical Ethics have denounced these so-called treatments as experimental and dangerous. For example, temporary use of Lupron, the most commonly prescribed “puberty blocker”, has the potential to cause permanent and damaging side effects such as osteoporosis, seizures, and often causes sterility when mixed with cross-sex hormones.⁴ The Protecting Our Kids from Harmful Research Act would ensure that federal taxpayer dollars cannot be used for this experimental and harmful research on children.

Bill Specifics

This legislation would prohibit federal funds from being used to fund research or publications relating to gender transition in individuals under the age of 18, including any observational studies that gather evidence on the provision of hormonal treatments or surgical procedures on minors, for the purpose of affirming a minor’s perception of his or her sex, if that perception is incongruent with such minor’s sex, or affirming a minor’s asserted identity, if the asserted identity is incongruent with such minor’s sex.

¹ Johanna Olson-Kennedy, Impact of Early Medical Treatment for Transgender Youth: Protocol for the Longitudinal, Observational Trans Youth Care Study, July 9, 2019.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6647755/>

² The Impact of Early Medical Treatment in Transgender Youth, Project Number 2R01HD082554-06, NIH Report, Accessed July 28, 2021. <https://reporter.nih.gov/project-details/10122677>

³ Physical Interventions on the Bodies of Children to “Affirm” their “Gender Identity” Violate Sound Medical Ethics and Should be Prohibited, December 8, 2019: <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/12/58839/>

⁴ The American College of Pediatricians: Deconstructing Transgender Pediatrics, Accessed October 3, 2023.

<https://acpeds.org/topics/sexuality-issues-of-youth/gender-confusion-and-transgender-identity/deconstructing-transgender-pediatrics>